

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01155 100051Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DLOS-06 SAL-01 EB-08 COME-00 OES-06  
CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01  
ACDA-07 IO-13 /097 W

-----100330Z 117534 /73

R 100028Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2046

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1155

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PLOS KS JA

SUBJ: KOREAN REACTION TO FUKUDA CLAIM THAT JAPANESE 12 MILE  
LIMIT SHOULD APPLY TO TOKTO ISLAND

REF: TOKYO 1809 (DTG 080933Z FEB 77)

1. IN REVIVAL OF SEMI-ANNUAL POSTURING BETWEEN KOREA AND JAPAN OVER TOKTO ISLAND (TAKESHIMA), KOREAN PRESS REACTED SHARPLY TO TOKYO REPORTS THAT FUKUDA TOLD DIET 5 FEBRUARY THAT NEW 12 MILE LIMIT SHOULD APPLY TO TOKTO ISLAND IN SEA OF JAPAN. UNNAMED MOFA SOURCES QUOTED AS SAYING TOKTO IS "AN INSEPARABLE PART OF OUR TERRITORY" AND COULD NEVER BE AN OBJECT OF CONSULTATIONS WITH JAPAN. SOURCES "ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT KOREA HAS EVERY RIGHT TO CHECK MILITARILY ANY JAPANESE FISHING BOATS INTRUDING INTO THE ISLAND. PRESS ALSO DUG UP 200 YEAR OLD "JAPANESE" MAP SHOWING TOKTO AS KOREAN TERRITORY.

2. ROK MOFA NORTHEAST ASIA DIVISION I (JAPAN) CHIEF YI  
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TONG-IK (LEE DONG-IK) ON 8 FEBRUARY CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF SUBSTANCE OF PRECEDING QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO MOFA SOURCES. YI SAID ROKG "WON'T TAKE THIS UP FORMALLY WITH JAPANESE GOVERNMENT NOW," BUT MATTER "PROBABLY WILL COME UP" IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN FUKUDA AND PAK TONG-CHIN ON 17 FEBRUARY. YI ADDED THAT JAPANESE OFFICIALS PRIVATELY ASSURE ROK OFFICIALS THAT ROK CLAIM TO TOKTO IS NOT SERIOUSLY

CHALLENGED, BUT THAT GOJ MUST CONSIDER JAPANESE POPULAR  
OPINION ON ISSUE.

3. ON 9 FEBRUARY, EMBOFF CALLED YI AGAIN TO VERIFY OFFICIAL  
HAPTONG AGENCY REPORT THAT MOFA "INSTRUCTED" KOREAN EMBASSY  
TOKYO TO REQUEST GOJ CLARIFY INTENT OF FUKUDA REMARKS 5  
FEBRUARY. YI REPLIED THAT NO INSTRUCTIONS WERE GIVEN TO  
KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN TO DO THIS; AMBASSADOR "ACTED  
WITHIN HIS OWN DISCRETION." YI REFERRED TO 8 FEBRUARY TALK  
WITH EMBOFF AND SAID THAT AS FAR AS KOREA WAS CONCERNED  
"FRANKLY WE HAVE NO INTENTION TO TALK ABOUT THIS MATTER  
WITH THE JAPANESE SIDE."

4. COMMENT: ROKG CLEARLY WANTS TO DOWNPLAY DISPUTE  
AT OFFICIAL LEVEL, THOUGH OBLIGATORY BRISTLING IN DIRECTION  
OF JAPAN MAY CONTINUE FOR SHORT WHILE. END COMMENT.  
SNEIDER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009